

## Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 091349

R 071200Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1749

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4575

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG ECON PFOR EG US IS XE

SUBJECT: ISRAELI DRILLING ACTIVITIES IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: (A) CAIRO 3434, (B) TEL AVIV 2103, (C) STATE 65709

1. AMOCO EGYPT MANAGER ROSS CRAIG INFORMED US APRIL 6 THAT AMOCO HAS INFORMATION THAT DRILLING RIG, WHICH WAS SUBJECT OF REFTELS, IS STILL IN SAME POSITION AND THAT ACTIVITY AROUND RIG INDICATES PREPARATIONS FOR DRILLING ARE PROCEEDING. HE NOW BELIEVES THAT DRILLING HAS NOT YET STARTED. CRAIG WOULD NOT CITE HIS SOURCE OF INFORMATION. RIG, ACCORDING TO CRAIG, IS SOUTH AFRICAN, OPERATED BY NEDDIE NEPLUP (PHONETIC) COMPANY. NAME OF RIG IS SPRING BOK.

2. CRAIG HAS JUST RETURNED FROM AMOCO HEADQUARTERS IN CHICAGO, WHERE HE SAID THAT ISRAELI ACTIVITIES WERE DISCUSSED. NO DECISION MADE HOWEVER ON APPROACH TO ISRAELIS BECAUSE EXACT POSITION OF DRILLING RIG IS STILL IN QUESTION. AMOCO NOW BELIEVES THAT RIG MAY BE IN ORIGINAL 1964 CONCESSION AND NOT IN NEWER CONCESSION AS FIRST THOUGHT. IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLACE IT DEFINITELY HOWEVER, EITHER BECAUSE OF FAULTY MAPS OF AREA OR BECAUSE INFORMATION NOT EXACT. REVIEW OF CONCESSION AREAS IN GULF OF SUEZ SHOWS THAT ORIGINAL 1964 AMOCO CONCESSION EXTENDS UP TO SINAI COAST NORTH AND SOUTH OF TUR EXCEPT FOR TWO VERY SMALL BLOCKS JUST NORTH AND SOUTH OF CITY OF TUR, WHICH  
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WERE PART OF 1974 CONCESSION. IT APPEARS THAT ISRAELI RIG

IS ALMOST ON BORDER LINE BETWEEN THE SOUTHERN BLOCK (PART  
FO 1974 AGREEMENT) AND ORIGINAL 1964 CONCESSION.

3. COMMENT. ACCORDING TO ISRAELI POSITION ACTIVITY IN  
AREAS GRANTED BY GOE TO FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES SINCE  
OCCUPATION OF SINAI IN 1967 DIFFERENT FROM ACTIVITY IN AREA OF  
PREVIOUS CONCESSION AGREEMENTS. IF ISRAELI ACTIVITY IS IN  
INITIAL 1964 CONCESSION, AS COULD BE CASE, QUESTION OF  
INVOLVEMENT OF AMERICAN INTERESTS WOULD BE UNDEBATABLE. IT  
WOULD APPEAR FROM OUR SIDE OF GULF OF SUEZ HOWEVER THAT  
QUESTION OF POSITION OF RIG IS IMPOSSIBLE RESOLVE. WE WONDER  
IF THERE IS SOME MORE SOPHISTICATED WAY TO GET A FIX ON THE  
RIG'S ACTUAL POSITION.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OFFSHORE DRILLING, GULF OF SUEZ, PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 07 APR 1976  
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